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ABSTRACT

Changes that have recently taken place in the composition of the American family and the circumstances in which children and youth are now growing up are highlighted in this Congressional report. While this compilation of approximately 64 tables of data is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it use every statistical series available, it does include data for which there are reasonably reliable national measures. Several tables are provided in each of the following seven categories: population, family environment, income, education, health and health-related behavior, behavior and attitudes, and selected government programs affecting children. Brief statements by two of the members of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families are appended. (RH)

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98TH CONGRESS
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U.S. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES: CURRENT CONDITIONS AND RECENT TRENDS

A REPORT

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MAY 1983

Printed for the use of the
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U.S. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES: CURRENT CONDITIONS AND RECENT TRENDS

INTRODUCTION

"U.S. Children and Their Families: Current Conditions and Recent Trends" begins our assessment of the conditions in which American children, youth, and families now live.

These tables show that dramatic changes in the living situations of families and children are taking place, creating new pressures on families and new demands on our institutions. It seems likely that our children will be shaped by environments much different than our own.

This compilation is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it use every statistical series available. It includes only those data for which there are reasonably reliable national measures. Nevertheless, it should be noted that national data often mask regional and local differences.

There are important facts that should be included to draw a more complete picture of children and families, but these data are not available. Basic national statistics are not collected for such groups as handicapped and adopted children, foster children, and children of immigrant workers. More complete figures are needed on abused or neglected children and youth. There is also a need for more definitive national information on various ethnic groups.

The goal of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families is to develop an up-to-date profile of the trends of the last several decades so that we can begin to say: This is where the nation stands with regard to the financial status of families, changes in the workforce, the number of children living with only one parent, the health and educational status of children, etc. We will then be better able to determine which areas and issues most require our consideration.

The public has been seeking some shape and focus for issues affecting children, youth, and families. Members of Congress join in that search, knowing that a solid information base is essential to sensible policy choices which address the causes, not simply the symptoms, of problems. We are pleased that this first report of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families provides a step in that direction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee wishes to thank Child Trends, Inc. for compiling this report. Child Trends is a not-for-profit research organization dedicated to improving the scope, quality, and use of statistical information about children.

Their preparation of this report was made possible by a grant for core support from the Foundation for Child Development and a grant from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman.

DAN MARRIOTT,
Ranking Minority Member.

POPULATION

1. Number of Children by Age and Race. The total number of children has fallen since the early 1970s but is projected to rise somewhat during the 1980s. The number of preschool children has already begun to increase, and is projected to increase further by the end of this decade. The number of teenagers will continue to decline through 1990. The number of black children has remained stable through the 1970s, but will rise slightly in the 1980s.

Number in Millions

	1960	1970	1980	1982	1990 (projected)
Total Aged 0-17	64.2	69.6	63.7	62.7	64.3
Age					
0 - 5	24.3	21.0	19.6	20.6	23.0
6 - 11	21.7	24.6	20.7	19.8	21.8
12 - 17	18.2	24.1	23.3	22.3	19.5
Race					
White	55.5	59.1	52.5	51.4	52.0
Non-white	8.7	10.6	11.1	11.3	12.4
Black	NA	9.5	9.4	9.5	10.3

Note: "Non-white" refers to all races other than white, and includes blacks, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except white. Blacks comprise the great majority of non-whites. People of Spanish origin can be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Projections of the Population of the United States: 1982 to 2050," Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 922, Table 2 (middle series projections); "Preliminary Estimates of the Population of the United States by Age, Sex and Race: 1970 to 1981," Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 917, Table 1; 1970 Census volume. "Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary," Table 52; 1960 Census volume. "Characteristics of the Population, U.S. Summary," Table 155.

2. Fertility Rates. Since the post-World War II baby boom, fertility rates have fallen dramatically among both non-whites and whites. The fertility rate remains higher among non-whites.

Fertility Rate (Live Births per 1,000 Women Aged 15-44)

	1950	1960	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982
Total	106	118	88	67	68	68	68
White	102	113	84	63	65	NA	NA
Non-white	137	154	113	89	89	NA	NA
Black	NA	154	115	89	88	NA	NA

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Annual Natality Volumes for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1975. Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Advance Report "Final Natality Statistics, 1980." Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Annual Summary of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces for 1981"; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for 1982."

3. Number of Births. Although the fertility rate has remained low, as the children of the baby boom have grown up and become parents themselves, the annual number of births has begun to rise.

Births (in thousands)

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981	1982
Total	3,632	4,097	4,258	3,760	3,731	3,144	3,612	3,646	3,704
White	3,108	3,485	3,601	3,124	3,091	2,552	2,899	NA	NA
Non-white	524	613	657	636	640	592	714	NA	NA
Black	NA	NA	602	581	572	512	590	NA	NA

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Annual Natality Volumes for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1975. Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Advance Report "Final Natality Statistics, 1980." Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Annual Summary of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces for 1981"; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for 1982."

4. Out-of-Wedlock Births. The number of babies born outside marriage has more than quadrupled since 1950. While the number of births to unmarried women has risen, the number of births to married women has declined. Thus, the proportion of children born outside marriage has been rising. Among blacks, over half of all births now occur to unmarried women.

Out-of-Wedlock Births

	1950	1960	1970	1975	1979	1980*
Number in thousands	142	224	399	448	598	666
Percent of all births						
Total	4.0%	5.3%	10.7%	14.2%	17.1%	18.4%
White	1.7	2.3	5.7	7.3	9.4	10.0
Non-white	16.8	21.6	34.9	44.2	48.8	48.5
Black	NA	NA	37.6	48.8	54.7	55.3

*The 1980 numbers are produced by a new methodology.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, Annual Natality Volumes for 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1975; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1979," and "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1980."

5. Households with Children. Families with children are a decreasing proportion of all households.

	Total Households and Percent Distribution By Type of Household			
	1970		1982	
Total number of households	63.4 mil.		83.5 mil.	
Percent of households				
Family Households	81.2%		73.1%	
Married couple, no children	30.3		30.1	
Married couple, children 0-17	40.3		29.3	
Male householder, children 0-17 45.3%	0.5	37.1%	0.8	
Female householder, children 0-17	4.5		7.0	
Other families, without children	5.6		5.8	
Non-family Households	18.8		26.9	

Note: The Bureau of the Census defines a family as a group of two or more persons residing together and related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household consists of all those persons who occupy a housing unit. It includes related family members, and all unrelated persons, if any. A person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit is counted as a household. A householder is usually the person, or one of the persons, in whose name the home is owned or rented. If there is no such person in the household, the householder can be any adult household member.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1981." Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 371, Table A; unpublished data from the March, 1982 Current Population Survey.

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6. Female-Headed Families. The number of families with children under 18 has been increasing, especially those headed by females. The proportion of families headed by women has risen among blacks and whites but remains substantially higher among blacks.

Number of Families With Children Under 18 (in millions)

	1960	1970	1980	1982
Total families	26.66	28.81	30.52	31.01
Female-headed	1.89	2.93	5.34	5.87
White families	23.26	25.54	26.16	26.24
Female-headed	1.39	2.00	3.51	3.93
Black families	2.40	2.98	3.73	3.92
Female-headed	.50	.91	1.75	1.82

Percent Female-Headed

Total Families	7%	10%	17%	19%
White	6	8	13	15
Black	21	30	47	46

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 73; unpublished data from the March, 1982 Current Population Survey.

7. Metropolitan and Central City Residence. Nearly forty percent of all children under 14 years of age live in the suburbs of metropolitan areas. Black children are more than twice as likely as white children to live in the central cities of metropolitan areas. However, the proportion of black children living in suburbs has increased in recent years.

Metropolitan and Central City Residence, in Percents

	1976	1980
All children under 14 years		
Living in metropolitan areas		
Inside central cities	27.6%	26.8%
Outside central cities	39.1	39.4
Living in non-metropolitan areas	33.3	33.8
White children under 14 years		
Living in metropolitan areas		
Inside central cities	22.1%	21.3%
Outside central cities	42.8	42.9
Living in non-metropolitan areas	35.1	35.8
Black children under 14 years		
Living in metropolitan areas		
Inside central cities	57.1%	55.7%
Outside central cities	18.0	20.0
Living in non-metropolitan areas	24.9	24.3

Note: Metropolitan areas for both years are the 243 standard metropolitan statistical areas as defined in the 1970 Census publications.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P23, No. 66, Table 5; Series P23, No. 114, Table 6.

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

1. Family Living Arrangements. As of 1982, 14 million young people -- or 22 percent of all children under 18 -- were living in a single parent family with either their mother or father. Some 23 million young people -- or 37 percent of all U.S. children under 18 -- were living in something other than a family where both biological parents were present.

U.S. Children Under 18, 1982

Child lives with:	Number (in millions)	Percentage of All Children
Both biological parents	39.3	63%
Mother only	12.5	20
Father only	1.2	2
One biological parent and one stepparent	6.2	10
Two adoptive parents	1.2	2
Grandparents or other relatives	1.6	2
Foster parents, other non-relatives, or in institution	0.4	1
Total	62.4	100%

Source: Calculated from unpublished data from the March, 1982 Current Population Survey data, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Proportions adopted and living with remarried parents estimated from the 1976 and 1981 National Surveys of Children, and from Paul Glick "Children of Divorced Parents in Demographic Perspective," Journal of Social Issues, 35, 170-182, 1979.

2. Number of Parents. The proportion of children living with just their mother has risen among whites and blacks, but remains higher among black children. Fewer than half of all black children live in two-parent families and nearly one in eleven lives with neither parent.

U.S. Children Under 18 (percent distribution)

	All Races		White		Black	
	1970	1982	1970	1982	1970	1982
Percent living with:						
Two parents	84.9%	75.0%	89.2%	80.8%	58.1%	42.4%
Mother only	10.7	20.0	7.8	15.3	29.3	47.2
Divorced	3.3	8.2	3.1	8.0	4.6	9.6
Separated	4.7	5.6	2.8	4.3	16.2	13.6
Never married	0.8	4.4	0.2	1.6	4.4	20.8
Widowed	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	4.2	3.3
Father only	1.1	1.9	0.9	1.9	2.2	2.0
Neither parent	3.3	3.1	2.2	2.0	10.4	8.4

Note: Children living with two parents include about 10 percent of children living with a parent and stepparent and 2 percent living with adoptive parents (as of 1982). Children living with neither parent include those living with relatives other than their parents, with non-relatives, or in institutions. The small number of children maintaining their own households are not included.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 76; and unpublished data from the March, 1982 Current Population Survey.

3. Children in Female-Headed Households. The increase in the number of children living only with their mothers has been due to an increase in divorce and out-of-wedlock childbearing. The number of children living with a divorced mother more than doubled between 1970 and 1982, while the number living with an unmarried mother increased by a factor of more than five. (Some of the latter change, however, is due to improvements in survey coverage and data coding.) The number living with a widowed mother fell by about 17 percent.

	Number of Children Under 18 (in millions)		
Child lives with mother who is:	1970	1982	% Change 1970-82
Divorced	2.3 mil.	5.1 mil.	+122%
Separated	2.3	3.1	+ 33%
Never married	0.5	2.8	+431%
Widowed	1.4	1.1	- 17%
Total children living with mother only	7.5 mil.	12.5 mil.	+ 68%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1981," Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 372, Table D; unpublished data from the March, 1982 Current Population Survey.

4. Number of Children Per Family. The proportion of families with 3 or more children has fallen sharply for all families. There has been a corresponding rise in the proportion of families with no children or only one child.

Percent Distribution of Families by Number of Own Children Under 18 Years Old

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1979	1980	1981
All families							
No children	43%	43%	44%	46%	47%	48%	48%
1 child	18	18	18	20	21	21	21
2 children	18	17	17	18	19	19	19
3 children	21	11	11	9	9	8	8
4 or more children		11	10	7	4	4	4
Black families							
No children	44%	40%	39%	37%	37%	38%	39%
1 child	16	17	18	22	23	23	23
2 children	13	14	15	17	20	20	20
3 children	28	10	10	11	11	10	10
4 or more children		19	18	14	9	8	8

Note: "Own children" includes biological, adopted, and step-children. The figures represent a cross-section of families at a given point in time, and as such do not reflect the distribution of families by the number of children they will ultimately have. For example, while 48% of families had no children in 1981, many of these families previously had or subsequently will have one or more children. Because the vast majority of U.S. families are white, the percent distributions for white families are very close to those for all families and so are not shown separately.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 70.

5. Education of Parents. The level of educational attainment among parents of school-aged children has been rising, especially among blacks; however the educational level of black heads of households still lags behind that of whites.

Percentage of Students Whose Head of Household Has 12 or More Years of Education

Child's School Level	Total		Whites		Blacks	
	1970	1979	1970	1979	1970	1979
Elementary	62%	71%	66%	75%	36%	51%
High School	59	70	63	74	30	45

Source: 1979 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Social and Economic Characteristics of Students," Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 360, Table 11. 1970 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "School Enrollment: October 1970," Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 222, Table 12.

6. Maternal Employment. The proportion of children with mothers in the labor force has increased dramatically over the last decade.

Percentage of Children With Mothers In Labor Force

	1970	1980	1981	1982
All children under 18	39%	53%	54%	55%
Children 0-5	29	43	45	46
Children 6-17	43	57	58	59

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, News, "Half of Nation's Children Have Working Mothers," November 15, 1981, Table 1; News, "Marital and Family Characteristics of Workers, March 1980," December 9, 1980, Table 6; and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

7. Mother's Marital Status and Employment. Divorced and separated mothers are more likely to be in the labor force and to be unemployed than are married mothers.

Mother's Marital Status and Age of Children	Percentage of Mothers In Labor Force				Percentage of Mothers Who Are Unemployed			
	1970	1975	1981	1982	1970	1975	1981	1982
All mothers								
Children 0-5	32.2%	38.9%	46.6%	49.9%	8.2%	14.4%	10.2%	12.9%
Children 6-17 only	51.5	54.8	64.4	65.8	5.0	7.7	6.7	8.2
Married								
Children 0-5	30.3	36.6	47.8	48.7	7.8	13.9	8.2	10.1
Children 6-17 only	49.2	52.3	62.5	63.2	4.7	7.2	5.3	7.0
Separated								
Children 0-5	45.4	49.1	51.0	55.2	13.3	23.7	20.2	20.1
Children 6-17 only	60.6	59.0	70.0	68.4	5.9	12.9	14.2	14.6
Divorced								
Children 0-5	63.3	65.6	65.4	67.2	5.2	10.4	10.3	13.5
Children 6-17 only	82.4	80.1	83.4	83.6	6.5	9.1	7.1	9.2

Note: Data are for March of each year. The labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed. Employed persons are those at work in a job or business, or who have a job or business from which they are temporarily absent due to such factors as illness, vacation, and labor disputes. Unemployed persons are those who do not have a job or business but have made specific efforts to find a job in the last four weeks, or are waiting to return to an old job or report to a new one.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 638 and Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1981, Table 653; and unpublished data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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8. Child Care Arrangements. Children under six years with employed mothers are more likely to be cared for outside their own home in recent years, particularly if their mothers work full-time.

Type of Child Care Arrangements for Children Under Six Who Have Employed Mothers (Percent Distribution)

	1958	1965	1977
Mother Employed Full-time			
Care in Child's Home	56.6%	47.2%	28.6%
By father	14.7	10.3	10.6
Other	41.9	36.9	18.0
Care in Another Home	27.1	37.3	47.4
Relative	14.5	17.6	20.8
Non-relative	12.7	19.6	26.6
Group Care Center	4.5	8.2	14.6
Other Arrangements	11.8	7.4	9.3
Mother Employed Part-time			
Care in Child's Home	NA	47.0%	42.7%
By father		22.9	23.1
Other		24.2	19.6
Care in Another Home	NA	17.0	28.8
Relative		9.1	13.2
Non-relative		7.9	15.6
Group Care Center	NA	2.7	9.1
Other Arrangements	NA	33.2	19.4

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Trends in Child Care Arrangements of Working Mothers," Current Population Reports, Series P23, No. 117, Table A.

INCOME

1. Median Family Income. When corrected for inflation, the median family income of children living in families rose from 1964 to 1970, was relatively stable through the 1970s, but fell slightly in 1980 and 1981. Children living in husband-wife families enjoy nearly three times the family income of children in mother-only families.

	Median Family Income of Children Living in Families					
	1964	1970	1975	1979	1980	1981
Current dollars						
All types of families	$ 6,711	$10,227	$13,915	$19,732	$20,939	$22,041
Husband-wife families	NA	11,041	15,534	22,258	23,846	25,636
Mother-only families	NA	4,145	5,501	7,734	7,938	8,653
Constant (1981) dollars						
All types of families	$19,678	$23,954	$23,514	$24,724	$23,111	$22,041
Husband-wife families	NA	25,860	26,250	27,889	26,319	25,636
Mother-only families	NA	9,708	9,296	9,691	8,761	8,653

Note: Data are for related children under 18, that is biological, step-, and adopted children of the householder, and any other children related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. The medians are based on children. That is, each child is characterized by the income of its family, and the median for all children is computed. Thus, of all children living in families in 1981, half were in families with an income greater than $22,041, and half were in families with a lower income. Mother-only families are those having a female householder with no husband present. Constant dollars are calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60, No. 47, Table 5; No. 80, Table 19; No. 105, Table 24; No. 132, Tables 16,17,30; No. 137, Table 27; P23, No. 114, Table 42.

2. Median Family Income By Race and Spanish Origin. The median family income of white children is half-again as much as that of children of Spanish origin, and twice that of black children. Some of the overall income difference between black and white children is due to the greater proportion of black children living in mother-only families.

	Median Family Income of Related Children Under 18, 1979		
	All Types of Families	Husband-Wife Families	Mother-Only Families
All children	$19,732	$22,258	$7,734
White	21,058	22,714	9,058
Black	10,675	17,369	6,565
Spanish origin	14,067	16,543	5,934

Note: Related children under 18 include biological, step-, and adopted children of the householder, and any other children related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. The medians are based on children (see notes, previous table). The category "Spanish origin" includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. Origin is determined by asking "What is (this person's) origin or descent?" Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race. Mother-only families are those having a female householder with no husband present.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P23, No. 114, Table 42.

3. Children in Poverty. Children are more likely than any other age group to be living in poverty. While the proportion of children who are poor declined sharply in the 1960s, it has risen throughout the 1970s. The proportion of elderly who are poor declined during both decades. Black children are especially likely to be living in poverty.

Percentage of Persons Below Poverty and 125% of Poverty

	1959	1970	1975	1980	1981
Percentage below poverty level					
Related children under 18					
All children	26.9%	14.9%	16.8%	17.9%	19.5%
White	20.6	10.5	12.5	13.4	14.7
Black	65.3	41.5	41.4	42.1	44.9
Spanish origin	NA	NA	33.1	33.0	35.4
Persons 65 or older	35.2	24.5	15.3	15.7	15.3
Persons of all ages	22.4	12.6	12.3	13.0	14.0
Percentage below 125% of poverty level					
Related children under 18					
All children	37.9%	20.8%	23.1%	23.7%	25.5%
White	31.6	15.5	18.1	18.7	20.2
Black	NA	52.3	51.2	49.8	53.1
Spanish origin	NA	NA	44.5	44.5	44.9
Persons 65 or older	NA	33.9	26.4	25.7	25.2
Persons of all ages	31.1	17.6	17.6	18.1	19.3

Note: Related children under 18 include biological, step-, and adopted children of the householder, and any other children related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption. The poverty level is based on money income and does not reflect receipt of non-cash benefits such as food stamps. Different levels are set according to the size and composition of the family. The levels are revised each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. In 1981 the average poverty level for a family of four was $9,287.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60, No. 133, Tables 1,2; P60, No. 134, Tables 15,16.

4. Proportion of Children Receiving Aid to Families With Dependent Children. After rising in the 1960s and early 1970s, the proportion of U.S. children receiving AFDC has stabilized. One in 9 children receives some assistance from AFDC.

Percentage of Children Under 18 Years of Age Receiving AFDC

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981
Percentage	3.5%	4.5%	8.7%	11.9%	11.9%	11.3%

Note: Data are for December of each year.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1981, Table 559; Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Tables 27,554.

5. AFDC Eligibility. Primary eligibility for receiving AFDC is determined by a means test. Among those circumstances contributing to income-tested eligibility, divorce and separation continue to rank highest. Both marital disruption and out-of-wedlock birth are increasing causes of poverty-related eligibility.

AFDC Eligibility by Basis (percent distribution)

Basis for Family Eligibility	1969	1979
Divorce/separation	27.4%	44.7%
Out-of-wedlock	27.9	37.8
Father deceased	5.5	2.2
Father unemployed	4.6	4.1
Father incapacitated	11.7	5.3
Other	22.9	5.9

Source: Social Security Administration, 1979 Recipient Characteristics Study, Part I, Demographic and Program Statistics, Table 18; and Findings of the 1969 AFDC Study, Part I, Demographic and Program Characteristics, Table 13.

6. Non-Cash Benefits. While childhood poverty persists, the character of poverty is affected by the availability of a number of non-cash benefits. One-quarter of households with children 0-18 receive one or more of the four main means-tested non-cash benefits -- free or reduced-price school lunches, food stamps, Medicaid, and subsidized housing. The proportions of households receiving each benefit, as well as receiving any of these benefits, have changed little in the last few years.

	Percentage of Households With Children 0-18 Receiving Benefit		
	1979	1980	1981
Free or reduced-price school lunches	14.6%	16.1%	15.7%
Food stamps	11.8	13.1	13.5
Medicaid	12.1	12.7	13.0
Subsidized housing	3.5	3.8	4.2
One or more of the above benefits	23.4	25.0	25.0

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60, No. 135, Table 1.

7. Child Support. Barely one third of women with children under 21 whose fathers are absent receive child support payments from the absent fathers. The average amounts received are small among all groups. Both the likelihood of support and the amount of support are highest when the mother is legally divorced, is white, or has a college education.

Women With Minor Children From an Absent Father, 1978

	Number in U.S. Population (in millions)	Percent Awarded Child Support Payments	Percent Who Received Any Child Support	Mean Annual Support Received*
All women with minor children from an absent father	7.1 mil.	59%	35%	$1,799
Number of own children				
One child	3.6 mil.	55%	30%	$1,288
Two children	2.1	65	42	1,995
Three children	0.8	62	36	2,528
Four children or more	0.5	57	34	2,752
Current Marital Status				
Divorced	2.4 mil.	80%	52%	$1,951
Remarried	2.0	77	39	1,602
Separated	1.3	45	27	1,906
Never married	1.4	11	6	976
Race and Spanish Origin				
White	5.1 mil.	71%	43%	$1,861
Black	1.9	29	14	1,294
Spanish origin	0.5	44	24	1,318
Educational Attainment				
Less than 12 years	2.4 mil.	46%	23%	$1,503
High school graduate	3.2	64	38	1,664
Some college	1.1	69	43	2,089
College graduate	0.5	71	52	2,574

*By those who received any support.

Note: Own children includes both biological and adopted children.

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P23, No. 112, Table B.

EDUCATION

1. School Enrollment. School enrollment has declined since 1970, reflecting the decline in the school-aged population. The proportion enrolled in private schools has remained fairly stable. The proportion of preschool children enrolled in nursery or other schools rose sharply during the 1970s.

	Enrollment in Schools			
	1970	1975	1980	1981
Enrollment in grades K-12 in regular public & private schools (1,000's)	51,272	49,791	46,013	45,190
Enrollment in private schools as a percent of total enrollment				
Grades K-8	11.1%	10.8%	11.7%	11.6%
Grades 9-12	9.0	8.3	9.3	9.8
Percent enrolled in school by age				
Ages 3-4	20.5%	31.5%	36.7%	36.0%
Ages 14-17	94.1	93.6	93.4	94.1

Note: Private school enrollment percents for 1975 and 1981 are based on estimated data.

Source: Calculated from National Center for Education Statistics, The Condition of Education, 1982, Table 2.1; The Digest of Education Statistics, 1982, Table 1; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 362, Table 2; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 221.

2. High School Graduation Ratio. The ratio of the number of high school graduates to the population of 17-year-olds rose in the early 1960s but has dropped slightly since then. The ratio has been consistently higher for girls than for boys.

Ratio of High School Graduates per 100 Persons 17 Years of Age

	1961	1965	1971	1975	1980	1980*	1981*	1982* (projected)
Total	70.8	76.3	74.7	74.4	73.6	72.5	72.3	73.3
Male	68.2	74.1	72.7	71.7	71.0	69.8	69.4	70.4
Female	73.6	78.6	76.7	77.1	76.3	75.3	75.2	76.2

*Based on 1980 Census population figures.

Note: Estimates are based on total U.S. population aged 17, including Armed Forces overseas. The graduation ratio is the ratio of the number of high school graduates in a given year to the population of 17-year-olds in the same year. As such, the ratio does not represent the proportion who will ultimately complete high school. For example, in 1981 the proportion of persons aged 25-34 who reported that they had completed four years of high school or more was 85.6% (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 374, Table 6-3). However, the graduation ratio does approximate the proportion who graduate high school on time, and reflects changes over time and group differences.

Source: Calculated from National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 1982, Table 60; Condition of Education, 1982, Table 1.6; 1977, Table 2.18; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P25, No. 917, Table 1.

3. Special School Resources for Handicapped Children. The proportions of children with specific handicapping conditions requiring special school resources remained unchanged from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s. However, the availability and use of resources increased, in some cases substantially.

Availability and Use of Special School Resources For Children 6-11 Years Old With Specific Handicaps

	Percentage of Children For Whom Resource Was Recommended		Percentage of Those Recommended for Whom Resource Available & Used	
	1963-5	1977	1963-5	1977
Slow learners	13%	13%	29%	60%
Speech impairments	6	6	47	75
Emotionally disturbed	3	4	22	26
Mentally retarded	1	2	65	78
Hearing handicaps	1	1	34	53
Visual handicaps	1	1	35	52
Orthopedic handicaps	<1	1	44	35
Total identified as needing one or more special resources	21%	21%		

Note: No comparable survey has been conducted since 1977. Both the 1963-5 survey and the 1977 survey were based on teacher questionnaires. The availability of special resources for disabled students has been significantly affected by the enactment of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and P.L. 94-142, The Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. Implementation of the regulations for these laws came into effect in 1977 and school year 1978-79 respectively.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Data from the National Health Survey," Vital and Health Statistics, Series 11, No. 113; Child Trends, Inc., data from the 1976 National Survey of Children.

4. Reading Achievement. The level of reading achievement of 9-year-olds has risen during the 1970s, while the levels of achievement for 13- and 17-year-olds have been relatively stable since 1970. White children at age 9 have higher levels of reading achievement than black children, although the gap has narrowed. Girls at age 9 continue to have slightly higher levels of reading achievement than boys.

National Assessment of Educational Progress
Reading Achievement Test Scores
(percent correct)

	1970-1	1974-5	1979-80
Age			
9-year-olds	64.0%	65.3%	67.9%
13-year-olds	60.0	59.9	60.8
17-year-olds	68.9	69.0	68.2
Race (age 9 only)			
White	66.4%	67.0%	69.3%
Black	49.7	54.5	59.6
Sex (age 9 only)			
Male	61.7%	63.1%	66.1%
Female	66.3	67.4	69.7

Note: Different tests were used for each age, so comparison between age groups for any given year is not appropriate. Comparison across years for any given age group is appropriate, however, as the scores are based on comparable items over all three points in time. The tests were conducted in 1971, 1975, and 1980 for 9- and 17-year-olds, and in 1970, 1974, and 1979 for 13-year-olds.

Source: The National Assessment of Educational Progress, Three National Assessments of Reading: Changes in Performance, 1970-80, Report No. 11-R-01 (Denver, Colorado: Education Commission of the States, April, 1981), Tables A1, A5, A9.

5. Mathematics Achievement. After declining in the early 1970s, the level of achievement in mathematics of 13-year-olds has risen in recent years, while the levels of achievement for 9- and 17-year-olds have remained relatively stable. Although blacks continue to trail whites at ages 13 and 17, they have made greater gains over time, especially at age 13. The performance of boys and girls is nearly equal at age 13, but boys score somewhat higher at age 17.

National Assessment of Educational Progress
Mathematics Achievement Test Scores
(percent correct)

	All Three Assessments		
	1973	1978	1982
Age			
9-year-olds	39.8%	39.1%	38.9%
13-year-olds	53.7	52.2	56.4
17-year-olds	55.0	52.1	51.8

	Last Two Assessments	
	1978	1982
Race/Ethnicity		
13-year-olds		
White	59.9%	63.1%
Black	41.7	48.2
Hispanic	45.4	51.9
17-year-olds		
White	63.2	63.1
Black	43.7	45.0
Hispanic	48.5	49.4
Sex		
13-year-olds		
Male	56.4%	60.4%
Female	56.9	60.6
17-year-olds		
Male	62.0	61.6
Female	58.8	58.9

Note: Different tests were used for each age, so comparison between age groups for any given year is not appropriate. Data in the first part of the table are based on items comparable over all three assessments; data in the second half, on items comparable over the last two assessments. Consequently, comparison across years for any given group is appropriate. In this assessment, white, black and Hispanic are non-overlapping categories.

Source: The National Assessment of Educational Progress, The Third National Mathematics Assessment, Trends and Issues, Report No. 13-MA-01 (Denver, Colorado: Education Commission of the States, April, 1983), Tables 1.1, 6.1, D.4.

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6. Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores. In 1982 the average SAT scores turned up slightly for the first time since 1963. Males score substantially higher than females on mathematics, and, in recent years, slightly higher on the verbal test. Although blacks continue to score lower, on the average, than whites, the gap has narrowed somewhat in recent years.

Average SAT Scores

	1963	1970	1976	1980	1981	1982
Mathematics score						
Overall Mean	502	488	472	466	466	467
Sex						
Male	NA	509	497	491	492	493
Female	NA	465	446	443	443	443
Race						
White	NA	NA	493	482	483	483
Black	NA	NA	354	360	362	366
Verbal score						
Overall Mean	478	460	431	424	424	426
Sex						
Male	NA	459	433	428	430	431
Female	NA	461	430	420	418	421
Race						
White	NA	NA	451	442	442	444
Black	NA	NA	332	330	332	341

Sources: College Entrance Examination Board, National Report on College-Bound Seniors, 1982; News From The College Board, October 14, 1982.

HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED BEHAVIOR

1. Prenatal Care. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of pregnant women receiving early prenatal care in the last decade. The increase has been especially marked among black women. However, black women remain less likely to receive such care than white women. As of 1980, one birth in 20 was to a mother who received either late care or none at all.

	Percentage of Live Births					
	1970	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980
Prenatal care began 1st trimester						
All races	68%	70%	72%	74%	75%	76%
White	72	74	76	77	78	79
Black	44	49	54	58	60	63
3rd trimester or no prenatal care						
All races	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%
White	6	6	5	5	5	4
Black	17	13	11	10	9	9

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 24; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 8 Supplement, November, 1982, Tables 13, 20.

2. Prenatal Care and Maternal Characteristics. Teenaged mothers are less likely than older mothers to receive prenatal care in the first three months of their pregnancies and more likely to receive no prenatal care at all. Mothers with less than a high-school education are less apt to get early prenatal care than mothers with more education. Late prenatal care and the total lack of care are also more common among unmarried mothers in comparison with married mothers, and among blacks in comparison with whites.

Percent Distribution of Live Births By Month Prenatal Care Began and Mother's Age, Education, Marital Status and Race, 1980

	Month Care Began			
	1st-3rd month	4th-6th month	7th-9th month	No Prenatal Care
All live births	76%	19%	4%	1%
Mother's age at birth of child				
Less than 15	34%	45%	15%	5%
15-19	56	33	8	3
20-24	75	20	4	1
25-34	84	13	2	1
35 or more	76	18	4	2
Mother's education				
0-8 years	54%	31%	10%	4%
9-11 years	60	30	7	3
12 years	79	17	3	1
13-15 years	85	12	2	1
16 years or more	91	8	1	<1
Mother's marital status				
Married	81%	15%	3%	1%
Unmarried	54	34	9	4
Mother's race				
White	79%	16%	3%	1%
Black	63	28	6	3

Note: Figures for the total line and for age, race, and marital status based on birth certificates from 50 reporting states and the District of Columbia. Figures for education based on birth certificates from 47 reporting states and the District of Columbia. Tabulations exclude cases with missing data, which constitute a very small proportion of all births.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, unpublished tabulations supplied by the Division of Vital Statistics.

3. Low Birth Weight. There has been a slight decline in the proportion of children born with a low birth weight (2,500 grams or less), but essentially no change in the proportion born with an extremely low birth weight (1,500 grams or less). Black children continue to be twice as likely to be born with a low birth weight.

	Percentage of Live Births Less Than 1500 And Less Than 2500 Grams					
	1970	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980
Low birthweight						
2,500 grams or less						
All races	7.9%	7.7%	7.4%	7.3%	7.1%	6.8%
White	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.7
Black	13.9	13.6	13.1	13.0	12.9	12.5
1,500 grams or less						
All races	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
White	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Black	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4

Note: 2,500 grams or less = 5 lb., 8 oz. or less. 1,500 grams or less = 3 lb., 4 oz. or less.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 24; Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 8 Supplement, November, 1982, Tables 13, 20.

4. Birth Weight And Prenatal Care. The proportions of both low and very low birthweight babies are much higher for mothers who receive no prenatal care. Among mothers who do receive prenatal care, there is a slightly higher proportion of low birthweight babies for those whose care began in the second or third trimester.

Percent Distribution of Live Births
By Birth Weight And Month
Prenatal Care Began, 1980

	Child's Birth Weight		
	Less Than 1500 Grams	1500 to 2500 Grams	2500 grams or More
All live births	1%	6%	93%
Prenatal care began:			
1st-3rd month	1%	5%	94%
4th-6th month	1	7	92
7th-9th month	1	8	92
No prenatal care	7	15	78

Note: Data are based on birth certificates from 47 reporting states and the District of Columbia. Tabulations exclude cases with missing data, which constitute a very small proportion of all births.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, unpublished tabulations supplied by the Division of Vital Statistics.

5. Infant Mortality. The incidence of infant mortality has fallen dramatically since the 1950s, but still remains twice as high among blacks as among whites.

Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births

	1950	1960	1970	1975	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
All Races	29.2	26.0	20.0	16.1	13.8	13.1	12.5	11.7	11.2
Whites	26.8	22.9	17.8	14.2	12.0	11.4	-	-	-
Blacks	43.9	44.3	32.6	26.2	23.1	21.8	-	-	-

Note: The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children under age 1 per 1000 live births.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 11. Data for 1981 and 1982 from National Center for Health Statistics, "Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for 1982," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 12; "Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1979," Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 31, No. 6, Supplement, Table 20.

6. Deaths Among Children from Diseases and Accidents. Health conditions among infants account for most child mortality. By adolescence, accidents and violence have replaced health conditions as the leading cause of death.

Deaths Per 10,000 Children by Age, 1979

	Diseases and Health Conditions			Accidents, Poisons, Violence		
Age	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black
Less than 1	129.4	110.5	236.2	3.9	3.1	8.2
1-4	3.4	3.2	5.1	3.0	2.6	4.9
5-14	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.5
15-24	2.4	2.2	3.6	9.1	9.0	9.7

Source: Estimates based on unpublished data furnished by the National Center for Health Statistics. The data are from the Vital Registration System, which reports cause of death as recorded on death certificates.

7. Deaths By Homicide. Homicide rates have risen for children over the last two decades. The rates are highest for older adolescents and young adults. Among younger children the rates are higher for infants and preschoolers than for school-aged children. The rates for male youths are 3 to 5 times the rates for female youths. The rates for black youths are several times the rates for white youths. The homicide rate for black males was substantially lower in 1979 than in 1970, despite a slight rise in 1979.

Number of Deaths By Homicide and Legal Intervention Per Million Resident Population

	1960*	1965*	1970	1975	1978	1979	1980**
Age							
Under 1 year	48	56	43	58	50	52	76
1-4 years	7	12	19	25	26	25	
5-14 years	5	6	9	10	13	11	14
15-24 years	59	68	117	137	132	149	169
Whites aged 15-24							
Male	44	49	79	112	124	148	NA
Female	15	18	27	40	41	44	NA
Blacks aged 15-24							
Male	464	571	1025	905	725	788	NA
Female	119	123	177	206	177	188	NA

* Includes deaths of non-residents of the United States
** Provisional data

Note: In addition to homicide, the table includes deaths by legal intervention, that is, as a result of police action or execution. Such deaths are rare among young children.

Source: Calculated from National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 21.

8. Communicable Diseases. Many communicable diseases that were once common to childhood have been eradicated or greatly reduced in frequency. The annual incidence of reported measles cases, for example, has fallen from just over 245 cases per 100,000 U.S. citizens in 1960, a few years before a vaccine for measles became available, to just over 1 case per 100,000 in 1981. Some communicable diseases of childhood, such as chickenpox, have yet to be conquered.

Number of Reported Cases of Specific Diseases Per 100,000 Persons in U.S. Population

Disease	1960	1965	1970	1975	1979	1980	1981
Measles	245	135	23	11	6	6	1
Rubella	NA	NA	28	8	5	2	1
Pertussis	8	4	2	1	1	1	1
Mumps	NA	NA	56	28	7	4	2
Chickenpox	NA	NA	NA	78	103	97	100

Note: Data are based on cases of notifiable diseases reported to state and territorial health agencies and thence to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Completeness of reporting varies greatly, inasmuch as not all cases receive medical care and not all treated conditions are reported. State laws and regulations mandate disease reporting, but reporting to the CDC by states and territories is voluntary.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health, United States, 1982, Table 26. Data for 1981 supplied by Centers for Disease Control, Bureau of Epidemiology.

9. Immunization Among Preschool Children. Since 1975, the proportions of children aged 1-4 who have been immunized against each of several major childhood diseases have leveled off or declined. An exception is mumps, for which the proportion immunized has continued to rise.

Percentage of Children 1-4 Immunized, According to Disease

	1970	1975	1978	1979	1980	1981
Measles	57%	66%	63%	63%	64%	64%
Rubella	37	62	62	64	64	65
D.P.T.*	76	75	68	65	66	68
Polio*	66	65	61	59	59	60
Mumps	-	44	51	55	57	59

*Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus, 3 doses or more; Polio, 3 doses or more

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 187. Data from United States Immunization Survey, annual, Centers for Disease Control.

10. Immunization Among Children Entering School. There has been notable progress since the late 1970s toward universal immunization of school-aged children, due largely to most schools requiring proof of immunization as a condition of admission. By the time they enter school, 95 percent or more of kindergarten and first-grade pupils have been immunized against each of the childhood diseases listed below.

Percentage of Children Entering Kindergarten and First Grade Immunized Against Specific Diseases, By School Year

Disease	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
Measles	93%	94%	96%	97%
Rubella	91	93	96	97
Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus	92	94	96	96
Polio	92	93	95	96
Mumps	83	86	92	95

Source: U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, Immunization Division. Data from annual School Enterer Assessment.

11. Physician Visits. The number of physician visits per person per year for children under 17 rose between 1964 and 1975. The proportion of children with at least one visit to a physician within the year prior to the survey also rose during that period. Since 1975, there has been little systematic change in the number of physician visits per year or in the interval since the last visit.

Number of Physician Visits Per Person Per Year and Interval Since Last Physician Visit, Children Under 17 Years

	1964	1975	1979	1980	1981
Number of visits per person	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.1
Interval since last visit			Percent Distribution		
Less than one year	67.0%	73.6%	75.6%	76.7%	76.2%
One year to less than two years	14.8	14.0	13.7	12.8	13.2
Two years or more	14.7	11.2	9.4	9.2	9.7

Note: Physician visits as measured in the National Health Interview Survey include contacts with physicians by telephone.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health: United States, 1982, Tables 35, 36; "Current Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey: United States, 1981," Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, No. 141.

12. Physician Visits By Age, Education, and Race. As of 1981, one child in 10 had not seen a doctor in two years or more. School-aged children have fewer physician visits per year, and are less likely to have seen a doctor within the last two years, than preschool children. Children from families with little formal education are less likely to receive medical care than children from families with more formal education.

Number of Physician Visits Per Person Per Year, by Age, Parent Education, and Race, 1981

	Age		
	Under 17	Under 6	6-16
All children	4.1	6.4	3.0
Education of family head			
Grade school only	2.7	4.2	2.2
Some high school	3.7	5.6	2.6
High school graduate	4.1	6.6	2.9
Some college	4.6	6.6	3.5
College graduate	5.1	7.7	3.7
Race			
White	4.3	6.7	3.1
Black	3.4	5.3	2.4
All other races	3.9	5.0	3.0

Percent With No Physician Visit in Two Years or More, By Age, Parent Education, and Race, 1981

	Age		
	Under 17	Under 6	6-16
All children	9.7%	2.7%	13.4%
Education of family head			
Grade school only	17.7%	6.3%	22.3%
Some high school	12.3	3.7	16.8
High school graduate	9.0	2.4	12.4
Some college	7.7	2.2	10.8
College graduate	5.1	1.1	7.3
Race			
White	9.5%	2.7%	13.0%
Black	10.0	2.1	14.2
All other races	13.3	5.8	18.8

Source: National Center for Health Statistics. Unpublished data supplied by Division of Health Interview Statistics.

13. Dental Visits. One school-aged child in three has not seen a dentist in a year or more. One in five has not seen a dentist in two years or more. Children are less apt to receive regular dental care if they come from low-income, low-education, or minority families.

Interval Since Last Dental Visit, Children Aged 6-16 (Percent Distribution)

Interval	1978-79	1981
Less than one year	64.5%	64.7%
One year to less than two years	14.1	14.5
Two years or more	20.0	19.7

Number of Dental Visits Per Person Per Year By Family Income, Education, and Race 1978-79

		Family Income	
	All Incomes	Less Than $10,000	$10,000 or more
All children aged 6-16	2.1	1.4	2.4
Education of family head			
Grade school only	1.2	1.3	1.3
Some high school	1.6	1.5	1.8
High school graduate	2.0	1.4	2.2
Some college	2.5	1.3	2.6
College graduate	3.2	2.2	3.3
Race			
White	2.3	1.6	2.5
All other races	1.2	1.0	1.5

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Dental Visits Volume and Interval Since Last Visit: United States, 1978 and 1979," by C. S. Wilder. Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, No. 138, and unpublished data from the Division of Health Interview Statistics.

14. Cigarette Use. The proportion of teen males who report that they smoke has fallen, and males aged 17-18 now appear to be less likely to smoke than females of the same age group.

Percent Smoking One or More Cigarettes Per Week

	1968	1974	1979
Males			
12-14	2.9%	4.2%	3.2%
15-16	17.0	18.1	13.5
17-18	30.2	31.0	19.3
Females			
12-14	0.6%	4.9%	4.3%
15-16	9.6	20.2	11.8
17-18	18.6	25.9	26.2

Source: Green, D. E., Teenage Smoking: Immediate and Long-Term Patterns, report prepared by Chilton Research Services for the National Institute of Education, 1979.

15. Alcohol and Drug Use. Seventy percent of high school seniors report drinking alcohol and nearly a third report using marijuana. One in twenty reports using cocaine. The use of marijuana and PCP have declined in the last few years, while the use of stimulants has risen.

Percentage of High School Seniors Who Reported Using Substance in Previous 30 Days

	1975	1977	1979	1981
Alcohol	68.2%	71.2%	71.8%	70.7%
Marijuana	27.1	35.4	36.5	31.6
Stimulants	8.5	8.8	9.9	15.8
Cocaine	1.9	2.9	5.7	5.8
LSD	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.5
PCP	NA	NA	2.4	1.4
Heroin	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Highlights from Student Drug Use in America, 1975-1981," by L. Johnston, J. Bachman and P. O'Malley. Table 8; and Johnston, L., J. Bachman, and P. O'Malley, Monitoring The Future, University of Michigan: Institute for Social Research, annual volumes, 1975-1981.

16. Adolescent Suicide. Suicide rates among adolescents are higher for males, particularly white males. The suicide rates for all groups except black females have more than doubled since 1960.

	Suicide Deaths Per Million Persons 15-19			
	1960	1970	1975	1978
White adolescents ages 15-19				
Male	59	94	130	138
Female	16	29	31	34
Black adolescents ages 15-19				
Male	34	54	70	75
Female	15	29	21	16

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States: Mortality, annual volumes; Table 5-12 (1960), Table I-8 (1970, 1975, 1978).

BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES

1. Goals. According to their own reports, high school seniors continue to value marriage and friendship, but earning money and finding steady work have increased in importance. Addressing social and economic inequalities has declined in importance.

	Percentage of High School Seniors Agreeing that Each Goal is "Very Important In My Life"				
	1972	1980			1972-1980 Changes in Percentages
		Total	Males	Females	
Being successful in my line of work	84%	88%	89%	88%	+4
Finding the right person to marry and having a happy family life	82	81	78	83	-1
Having strong friendships	79	82	81	82	+3
Being able to find steady work	78	84	86	83	+6
Having lots of money	18	31	41	23	+13
Working to correct social and economic inequalities	27	13	12	14	-14

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "A Capsule Description of High School Students," April, 1981, Table 18, Data from The National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, and the 1980 High School and Beyond Survey of High School Sophomores and Seniors.

2. College Aspirations. While the proportion of youth who want some post-high school education has not changed in the past decade, more young people now aspire to complete a college degree. On the other hand, fewer now appear to want post-graduate education, especially among males. The disparity in aspirations between males and females has largely disappeared, though males are still slightly more likely to want training beyond a bachelor's degree.

	Percentage of 12-16 Year Olds Who Aspire to Various Levels of College Education	
	1966-70	1981
Both sexes		
Some college or other training	32%	19%
Get a college degree	27	42
Finish college, take further training	18	16
Total wanting some post-high school training	77%	77%
Males		
Some college or other training	28%	17%
Get a college degree	29	43
Finish college, take further training	21	17
Total wanting some post-high school training	78%	77%
Females		
Some college or other training	36%	21%
Get a college degree	24	41
Finish college, take further training	15	14
Total wanting some post-high school training	76%	77%

Note: Data for 1966-70 are calculated from published statistics of Cycle III of the Health Examination Surveys and pertain to youths enrolled in elementary or secondary school. Data for 1981 are from the National Survey of Children and pertain to all youth.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Self-reported health behavior and attitudes of youths 12-17 years," Vital and Health Statistics, Series 11-Number 147, Tables 28, I; Child Trends, Inc., data from the 1981 National Survey of Children.

3. Time Use in Non-School Activities. Elementary school-aged children spend more time watching television than they spend reading, doing chores and homework combined.

Average Hours Per Day Spent in Specified Activities, 1976
(as reported by parents)

	Watching Television	Doing Homework	Reading for Pleasure	Doing Chores
Children 7-11	2.1	0.8	0.6	0.5

Source: Child Trends, Inc., data from the 1976 National Survey of Children.

4. Premarital Sexual Activity. The proportion of 19-year-old females living in metropolitan areas who report ever having had sexual intercourse increased substantially during the 1970s to a level of more than two out of three. The prevalence of sexually experienced females remains markedly higher among blacks compared with whites. Over three of four metropolitan area 19-year-old males were sexually experienced in 1979. Among males, the race difference is negligible.

Percentage of 19-Year-Olds Living in Metropolitan Areas Who Are Sexually Experienced

	1971	1976	1979
Female			
All 19-year-olds	46%	60%	69%
Whites	41	54	65
Blacks	78	84	89
Male			
All 19-year-olds	NA	NA	78%
Whites	NA	NA	77
Blacks	NA	NA	80

Source: Zelnick, M. and J. Kantner, "Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use and Pregnancy Among Metropolitan-Area Teenagers: 1971-1979," Family Planning Perspectives, 12(5), September/October, 1980, Tables 1 and 3.

5. Age at First Marriage. During the past decade, an increasing proportion of both men and women in their late teens and their 20s are delaying marriage.

	Percentage of Women Who Are Single		Percentage of Men Who Are Single	
Age	1970	1981	1970	1981
18	82%	89%	95%	98%
19	69	81	90	93
20	57	69	78	86
21	44	59	66	80
25	14	29	27	44
29	8	15	14	25

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1981." Current Population Reports, Series P20, No. 372, Table B.

6. Unwanted Births. Black mothers are more likely than white mothers to report that their children's births were the result of unwanted pregnancies. The proportion of births resulting from unwanted pregnancies is also higher for mothers with fewer than four years of high school than for those with more education.

Percentage of Births Unwanted, 1976

Race of Mother		Education of Mother	
Total	12.0%	Less than high school	17.4%
White	9.5	1-3 years high school	15.5
Black	25.8	4 years high school	11.2
		1-3 years college	9.3
		4 or more years college	4.7

Note: In the National Survey of Family Growth a pregnancy is defined as unwanted if the woman reports she did not want or probably did not want to have a(nother) baby at some time and felt that way before becoming pregnant.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Advance Data, No. 56, January 24, 1980, "Wanted and Unwanted Births Reported by Mothers 15-44 Years of Age: United States, 1976," by E. Eckard.

7. Pregnancy Spacing. The average number of months between pregnancies has increased among mothers of all ages, and has risen for blacks relative to whites. Pregnancies continue to be much more closely spaced among young mothers.

Average Months Between Current Birth and Previous Birth

Age at Current Birth	Whites		Blacks	
	1970	1977	1970	1977
Less than 20	21 months	23 months	21 months	24 months
20-24	30	33	29	36
25-29	40	44	42	52
30-34	54	56	53	66

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Interval Between Births: United States, 1970-77," Vital and Health Statistics, Series 21, No. 39, Table Q, by E. Spratley and S. Taffel.

8. Abortion. The number of abortions, the abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 women 15-44), and the abortion ratio (abortions per 1,000 live births) increased during the 1970s, though the increase slowed toward the end of the decade.

Abortion: Number (in thousands), Rate, and Ratio

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Number	616	763	855	988	1,079	1,158	1,252	1,281*
Rate	14	17	18	21	22	23	24	25
Ratio	196	242	272	312	324	347	358	359

*Estimated data

Note: Data are based on abortion statistics provided to the Centers for Disease Control by state health agencies, hospitals and other health facilities.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Health: United States, 1982, Tables 5,6; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 103, and unpublished data from the Centers for Disease Control.

9. Family Roles. A majority of male high school seniors and nearly half of female seniors believe a preschool child suffers if its mother is employed. While both sexes support equal pay for equal work, girls feel more strongly about this than do boys. Male seniors are more likely than female seniors to view the woman's role as centered around the home.

Percentage of High School Seniors, 1980

		Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Neither	Mostly Agree	Agree
"A preschool child is likely to suffer if the mother works"	Male	11.9%	10.6%	14.1%	23.7%	39.7%
	Female	18.2	21.1	15.4	24.4	20.9
"Men and women should be paid the same money if they do the same work"	Male	4.1	2.4	3.3	20.9	69.2
	Female	0.4	0.5	0.6	9.3	89.3
"It is usually better for everyone involved if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family"	Male	13.7	10.5	16.6	29.4	29.4
	Female	30.3	19.6	14.0	24.3	11.8

Source: Herzog, A. R. and J. Bachman, Sex Role Attitudes Among High School Seniors, University of Michigan: Institute for Social Research, 1982, Tables 3-1.1, 3-1.2, and 3-1.4.

10. The Importance of Religion. Nearly 80 percent of high school sophomores and seniors report low to moderate levels of religiousness. The proportion highly religious varies considerably by religious background, being highest for those outside the main Christian and Jewish groups, and lowest for those of Jewish or no religious background.

Level of Religiousness by Religion in Which Students Were Raised: High School Sophomores and Seniors, 1980

	High	Moderate	Low	None
All Students	10%	46%	33%	11%
Religion In Which Raised				
Jewish	5%	23%	50%	22%
Catholic	8	55	30	7
Main Line Protestant	9	46	36	9
Baptist				
White	14	46	33	7
Black	8	54	34	4
Other Christian	19	42	30	8
Other Religion	21	43	29	7
Not raised in any religion	1	9	39	50

Note: The measure of religiousness is based on a combination of two questions, one on frequency of attendance at religious services, the other on the extent to which respondents think of themselves as religious persons. Those who consider themselves very religious and attend religious services once a week or more were classified as having a "high" level of religiousness. Others who consider themselves very religious, or those who consider themselves somewhat religious and attend once a month or more were classified as "moderate." The "somewhat" religious who attend less than once a month, or the "not at all" religious who attend at least occasionally were classified as "low." And those who never attend and consider themselves not at all religious were classified as "none" on the religiousness variable.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, the 1980 High School and Beyond Survey of High School Sophomores and Seniors, unpublished analyses by Child Trends, Inc.

11. National Problems That Worry Youth. When asked how often they worry about each of the national problems listed below, U.S. high school seniors turn out to worry most often about crime and violence in their own communities. Concern about crime and violence declined steadily in the late 1970s, but was up sharply in 1981. Concern about nuclear war has been increasing among high school seniors in recent years, whereas worry about pollution and population growth have been declining. Concern about economic problems is on the increase, although it declined in the mid-1970s.

Percentage of High School Seniors Who Often Worry About Selected Issues, 1975-1981

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Crime and violence	54%	54%	53%	49%	45%	40%	53%
Energy shortages	36	28	40	31	46	49	36
Drug abuse	31	32	31	30	31	29	33
Economic problems	32	25	21	18	24	33	32
Chance of nuclear war	8	11	15	15	20	27	24
Pollution	37	36	35	30	27	23	23
Hunger and poverty	27	23	20	20	16	18	21
Race relations	19	21	21	20	17	15	19
Loss of open land	19	19	17	18	15	14	13
Population growth	20	19	16	15	12	9	10

Source: Johnston, L., J. Bachman, and P. O'Malley, Monitoring the Future, University of Michigan: Institute for Social Research, annual volumes, 1975-1981.

12. Attitudes Toward Military Service in the Event of War. A majority of male high school seniors say that, if they felt it were necessary for the U.S. to fight in some future war, they would volunteer for military service. However, nearly a third say they would not volunteer, and 16 percent of male students say that, in their opinion, there is no such thing as a "necessary" war. The proportion of males willing to volunteer is up sharply in recent years. Female students are much less likely to say they would volunteer, yet the proportion who would volunteer has risen, while the proportion saying there is no such thing as a necessary war has declined.

Attitudes of Seniors Toward Military Service In the Event of a Necessary War

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Males						
Would volunteer	43%	42%	42%	43%	47%	53%
Would not volunteer	39	41	40	38	37	31
No such thing as necessary war	18	17	18	19	16	16
Females						
Would volunteer	18%	20%	18%	19%	22%	24%
Would not volunteer	52	52	53	53	55	52
No such thing as necessary war	30	28	29	29	22	25

Source: Johnston, L., J. Bachman, and P. O'Malley, Monitoring the Future, University of Michigan: Institute for Social Research, annual volumes, 1976-1981.

SELECTED GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN

1. Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC). The number of families in the AFDC program has been relatively stable since the mid-1970s. The number of children per family has been falling. Consequently the number of children served has declined, but children still comprise over two-thirds of all recipients. Benefits are not indexed and benefit levels have not kept up with inflation since the mid 1970s.

Average Monthly Recipients and Program Cost

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981
Number of children	3.3 mil.	7.0 mil.	8.1 mil.	7.6 mil.	7.1 mil.
Number of families	1.1 mil.	2.6 mil.	3.6 mil.	3.8 mil.	3.6 mil.
Children per family	3.1	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.0
Program cost:					
Current dollars	$1.7 bil.	$ 4.9 bil.	$ 9.2 bil.	$12.5 bil.	$13.0 bil.
Constant (1981) dollars	4.8	11.4	15.6	13.8	13.0
Children as a percentage of recipients	75%	73%	71%	68%	68%

Note: Data on number of recipients are for December of each year. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Tables 554 and 555.

2. Average Monthly AFDC Payments. Average monthly AFDC payments vary widely among the states, the highest state paying more than six times the average of the lowest state. When corrected for inflation, the average payment per recipient in 1982 was barely above the level of 1965.

	Average Monthly Payments				
	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982
Per family	$137	$183	$219	$280	$310
Highest state	-	276	325	399	573
Lowest state	-	47	49	88	92
Per recipient					
Current dollars	$ 33	$ 50	$ 72	$100	$106
Constant (1982) dollars	100	123	128	116	106

Note: Data are for December of each year. Figures for 1982 no longer include foster care recipients and children. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 554 for recipient data; Table 557 for state data and family data; 1982 data from Social Security Administration, Office of Research and Statistics.

3. Medicaid. The total cost of Medicaid (in constant dollars) rose steadily during the 1970s. Children accounted for approximately half of all Medicaid recipients during the 1970s, but their proportion of the Medicaid budget fell steadily.

Medicaid Costs, And Children As A Proportion of Recipients And Costs

	FY1972	FY1974	FY1976	FY1978	FY1980	FY1982
Total cost: Federal and state vendor payments (in billions)						
Current dollars	$ 6.3	$10.0	$14.1	$18.0	$23.3	$30.0
Constant (1982) dollars	14.4	19.4	23.6	26.4	27.1	30.0
Children as a proportion of recipients	49%	48%	47%	47%	47%	48%
Proportion of total vendor payments expended on children	22%	19%	19%	17%	15%	13%

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: Health Care Financing Administration, "Health Care Financing Review," quarterly volumes.

4. Food Stamp Program. Participation in the Food Stamp program increased steadily during the 1970s. By 1982, nearly one person in ten participated in the program. Unlike AFDC, two-parent families are eligible and benefits are indexed to increase with inflation.

Food Stamp Program: Participation and Costs

	FY1965	FY1970	FY1975	FY1980	FY1982
Persons participating	.4 mil.	4.3 mil.	17.1 mil.	20.1 mil.	22.1 mil.*
Expenditures					
Current dollars	$ 33 mil.	$550 mil.	$4.4 bil.	$ 8.7 bil.	$11.6 bil.*
Constant (1982) dollars	100 mil.	1358 mil.	7.8 bil.	10.1 bil.	11.6 bil.*

*Includes Food Stamp portion of Puerto Rican block grant.

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 206; most recent year from Department of Agriculture, unpublished data.

5. School Lunch Program. The cost and number of children served in the National School Lunch Program rose steadily through the 1970s before falling in the 1980s.

School Lunch Program: Lunches Served and Costs

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982
Total lunches served, (free, reduced-price, or regular price school lunches, average daily basis) (in millions)	14.1	18.7	23.1	25.3	27.1	23.6
Proportion of total lunches served that were free or reduced-price	NA	NA	NA	NA	45%	50%
Total Federal cost (cash + commodities) (in billions)						
Current dollars	$0.23	$0.40	$0.57	$1.71	$3.19	$2.91
Constant (1982) dollars	.74	1.22	1.41	3.05	3.71	2.91

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, unpublished data.

6. WIC Feeding Program. In fiscal year 1982, more than 2 million infants, young children, and pregnant and nursing women received special dietary supplements through WIC (the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children). The federal appropriation for FY 1983 was $1.06 billion.

WIC Feeding Program: Participation and Costs

	FY1970	FY1975	FY1980	FY1982
Participants	.1 mil.	.5 mil.	2.0 mil.	2.4 mil.
Expenditures				
Current dollars	$ 8 mil.	$ 94 mil.	$603 mil.	$960 mil.
Constant (1982) dollars	20 mil.	167 mil.	701 mil.	960 mil.

Note: The WIC program provides supplements to low income infants, young children, and pregnant and nursing mothers who are determined by health professionals to be at nutritional risk. Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 206; most recent year from Department of Agriculture, unpublished data.

7. Head Start. Enrollment in full-year Head Start programs has increased by more than 70 percent since 1970, while summer Head Start programs have been phased out. Total program costs have risen 13 percent (in constant dollars) over the same period.

Head Start Program: Participation and Costs

	FY1965	FY1970	FY1975	FY1980	FY1982
Enrollment (thousands)					
Full-year program	-	229	292	362	396
Summer program	561	195	46	14	-
Federal appropriation					
Current dollars	$ 96 mil.	$326 mil.	$441 mil.	$735 mil.	$912 mil.
Constant (1982) dollars	292 mil.	805 mil.	785 mil.	855 mil.	912 mil.

Note: Constant dollars calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-3, Table 757.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1982-83, Table 563; most recent year from Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, unpublished data.

8. Family Planning Services. Both federal appropriations for family planning services (Title X), and the number of persons served in state and federally-supported programs rose through the 1970s. Since then, a decline in federal support has taken place.

Family Planning Services: Participation and Costs

	FY1971	FY1975	FY1980	FY1981	FY1982
Number of persons served	1.9 mil.	3.9 mil.	4.6 mil.	NA	NA
Total federal and state appropriations	NA	NA	$350 mil.	$377 mil.	$333 mil. (est.)
Title X (Public Health Service Act)					
Current dollars	$ 6 mil.	$100 mil.	$165 mil.	$162 mil.	$124 mil.
Constant (1982) dollars	14 mil.	178 mil.	192 mil.	171 mil.	124 mil.

Note: Title X is the program through which the bulk of federal support for family planning services are provided.

Source: Nestor, B., "Public Funding of Contraceptive Services, 1980-82," Family Planning Perspectives 14(4), July/August 1982: 198-203, and unpublished data from the Office of Family Planning, Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance, DHHS.

Summary

This report highlights the dramatic changes that have taken place both in the composition of the American family and in the circumstances in which children and youth are now growing up.

These changes begin with the size of the child population itself. The children of the baby "boom" of the 1950s and 1960s are now beyond their childhood years. The subsequent "bust" of the 1970s resulted in a sharp contraction in the number of children. Now, however, as the children of the baby boom have become parents themselves, the annual number of births has once again begun to rise.

Much more has changed, however, than the mere numbers of children. An entire range of characteristics for families and children including family composition, median incomes, and the percentage of mothers working outside the home, continue to demonstrate the great change which has taken place in the last generation.

The proportion of children living with one parent has nearly doubled in the last decade, and the proportion with mothers who work outside the home has changed from a minority to a majority. One in four children do not live with two parents and nearly one in five families with children under 18 is headed by a woman. Fifty percent of mothers with children under 6 are now in the labor force, and more children than before are cared for by non-relatives and receive care outside their homes.

The economic status of children has clearly deteriorated, especially among minority children. Median family income is lower today than a decade ago, when measured in constant dollars, and the prevalence of poverty among children has actually increased in the last few years. Overall, nearly one child out of five lived in poverty in 1981, and one out of four lived below 125 percent of the poverty level.

The situation is worse for minority children. More than 2 out of 5 black children are living in poverty, and over half live below 125 percent of the poverty level.

To what can we attribute this harsh circumstance? For one thing, children in single parent families are much more likely to be living in poverty—their median family income is barely one third that of children living in two-parent families. Their economic difficulties stem in part from the loss of income from one adult wage earner. Another factor is the lack of financial support by many absent fathers. Only a third of all mothers with minor children receive any child support from the absent fathers, and the average annual level of support, among those few who receive it, is less than $2,000. Moreover, analysis from the Bureau of Census suggests a significant correlation between changes in family composition and changes in income and poverty levels. The correlation is larger for black families than for white families, since the former group experienced much larger changes in family composition, although the causes for changes in family com-

position for both black and white families are many and varied. These changes in family composition and their relationship to family income levels, as well as the reciprocal relationship between income deprivation and changes in patterns of family formation and breakup, are of serious concern to the committee and merit further discussion.

This summary of trends also bears out many concerns raised in recent years. There continues to be a relatively high rate of infant mortality, particularly among the black population. Increases in adolescent suicide, in the use of selected drugs among adolescents, and a long term decline in the average scores achieved by college-bound high school students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) all are substantiated by the data.

Not all the statistical news regarding children and youth, however, is disquieting.

There has been a marked and steady decline in overall infant mortality. Over 95 percent of all kindergarten children have now been immunized against the most prevalent childhood diseases. Basic skills in reading and mathematics have been improving, especially among black children. The drop in the SAT scores seems to have stopped. And the proportion of children whose parents have at least a high school education has been increasing, most notably among black children. It also appears that current trends in the teenage use of some drugs is leveling off or reversing.

Certain of the goals and values of young people have changed in the past decade. Today's high school seniors show more concern than those of a decade ago with finding steady work and making money, and less concern for correcting social and economic inequalities. Additional survey research and public opinion data on U.S. population attitudes, values and beliefs regarding children and the family will be an important component for future deliberations. As a part of the data, we hope to identify some of the positive elements that make for strong, healthy families.

The last section of the report reviews the participation rates and levels of investment in some government programs designed to address the problems faced by children, youth, and families. To date, one quarter of all households with children under 18 receive one or more of the four main means-tested, non-cash benefits.

The future role of government in addressing these issues is now being actively debated, as is the extent to which all our institutions, public and private, can play a positive role in the development of young people and the well-being of the family. This report, the first of many planned, should enhance that debate by substantially increasing the understanding of the status and needs of our children, youth, and families by the public and Members of Congress.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. MICKEY LELAND

I would like to thank Chairman Miller, the Select Committee staff and the organization involved in the compilation of these tables.

It is my hope that, as a result of the work of this committee, Congress and future administrations will take a more realistic view of the problems facing children and families.

It is troubling to me as an American, especially as a black American, that: (1) The number of black children born out of wedlock increased 18 percent between 1970 and 1980. Stated differently, this means that over 55 percent of black children are born out of wedlock. (2) 47.2 percent of black children are raised in single-parent households, headed by the mother only. (3) For white children born in 2-parent families, the median income is $22,258. For mother-only families, the median income drops alarmingly—$9,058 for whites, $6,565 for blacks, and only $5,934 for Hispanics (less than $500 a month). (4) More than 1 in 8 children have not seen a doctor in the last 2 years. (5) The average child support payment is only $1,799 per year (blacks and Hispanics receive only about $1,300 a year in child support).

These statistics are deeply disturbing. They speak poorly of our commitment to our greatest resource, our children.

This committee's mandate, therefore, is substantial. We must work to insure that our country continues its greatness. This cannot be done without reversing the trends which so greatly limit the future of our children, trends which the statistics presented here today sadly represent.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. THOMAS J. BLILEY, JR.

On the whole, I believe that this committee print is very informative and that it will be a useful contribution to our considerations. Especially enlightening are the statistics showing the dramatic increase in single-parent families, the average incomes of those families, and the disgraceful record of the proportion of children who never receive $1 of support from their absent fathers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Census report, *Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level: 1981*, "about one-half of all children living in families with a female householder, no husband present, were below the poverty level in 1981, compared with 11 percent of children living in married-couple families." Conversely, approximately one-half of all families below the poverty level in 1981 were maintained by women with no husband present.

These facts give an indication of the growing magnitude and gravity of the problems with which we have to deal. Taken together with statistics showing the rapid increase of non-cash benefits to poor children and their families since the mid-1960's, one must come to the conclusion that we are battling not only poverty, but much more profound problems as well. These considerations lead me, at least, to the conclusion that we ought to rethink our strategies of dealing with the problems of underprivileged children. Obviously, the programs we have developed are not helping enough in the long run.

There are two observations which I believe should be made at this time about the types of data included in the committee print. First, we should be careful to avoid confusing hard statistical data with the results of opinion surveys, from whatever source. In this print the two are somewhat mixed together without distinction between their relative merits. Surveys of opinion can be useful tools in considering the problems of large groups of people, but we must admit their limitations. We have each had the experience of seeing in the news results of different surveys on the same topic rendering seemingly contrary results. Often we do not know the exact question which was asked or who was involved in the survey. That is the case in the surveys in this report. Yet we all know that the sample selection and the order and phrasing of questions can play an important part in survey results.

Second, we ought to be clear on the fact that even statistics themselves do not answer any of the more profound questions which we must ask ourselves. Statistics are useful, indeed indispensable, to those charged with responsibility for large numbers of people. All too often, however, centering discussion on statistics, and not paying sufficient attention to the causes of problems, stifles discussion of the important issues. Our tendency to rely on statistics is understandable. Statistics offer to our minds evidence which is relatively clear and easy to understand. By comparison, arguments about the rights of individuals, the natural authority of the family, and the legitimate powers of govern-

ment are complex and do not provide us with answers quickly or easily. But we must remember that these are questions which are at the root of our deliberations. Until these questions are answered, statistics are of limited use. Statisticians could not have written the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States, and statisticians should not be depended upon to interpret them.

Having made these observations for the committee's consideration, let me reiterate that I am generally pleased with the print and I am certain that it will be valuable to our efforts.